Perspectives from the Field

Recent Research on the Archaeology of Ancient North Africa

Ancient North Africa is one of the most diversified regions in the Mediterranean. The coastal areas between the Atlantic shores of Morocco and the Libyan Sirtes offer different climate zones, various landscapes, and many micro-regions with their own cultural history. Furthermore, the archaeological evidence for Prehistoric, Berber, Numidian, Punic, Roman, Vandal and Byzantine cultures presents its own contrasts: on the one hand, there are well-known archaeological sites offering well-preserved buildings and monuments, and on the other hand, entire cities hidden below the surface which can only be made visible through geophysical methods. In recent years, Ancient North Africa has seen a great deal of dynamic and multifaceted fieldwork. The ongoing process of adopting new archaeological methods, however, is not a purely technological phenomenon but also modifies and refines the individual questions we ask.

The intention of the conference “Perspectives from the Field: Recent Research on the Archaeology of Ancient North Africa” is to bring together archaeologists who are conducting fieldwork projects at different sites, in order to compare questions, methods, and results, and to stimulate discussion on future perspectives.
Thursday, June 13th

Opening lecture
18:00: Stefan Ritter, Paul Scheding (München) & Sami Ben Tahar (Djerba): “Perspectives from the Field: An Introduction”
18:30: David Mattingly (Leicester): “In the Shadow of the Desert: Saharan Perspectives on the Archaeology of Ancient North Africa”
19:30 Evening Reception

Friday, June 14th

I. Cities
Chair: Johannes Eingartner (Augsburg)

9:00: Hamden Ben Romdhane (Tunis), Ralf Bockmann (Roma) & Frerich Schön (Tübingen): “The circus of Carthage in its urban context”
9:40 Discussion
9:50: Christoph Baure (Innsbruck), Heimo Dolenz & Christof Flügel (München): “From mudbricks to ashlar masonry: The excavations of the DAI Rome and INP Tunis at Carthage, Rue Ibn Chabâat (Quartier Didon) 2009–2012”
10:10 Elizabeth Fentress (Roma), Corisande Fenwick (London) & Hassan Limane (Rabat): “The UCL/INSAP Excavations at Volubilis”
10:30 Discussion
10:40 Coffee Break

II. Rural Landscapes
Chair: Susan Alcock (Michigan)

11:30: Sami Ben Tahar (Djerba), Mekki Aoudi (Sfax) & Philipp von Rummel (Berlin): “Henchir Bouyou (Djerba) through time: From Protohistory to the abandonment of the Early Roman Empire”
11:50 Discussion
12:00 Lunch

Saturday, June 15th

Chair: Michel Bonifay (Aix-en-Provence)

9:00: Mariette de Vos Raaijmakers & Redha Attou (Trento): “Water supply in rural sites of Africa Proconsularis. Settlement pattern and hydraulic technology in the countryside of Dougga and Téboursouk (High Tell, Tunisia) from the 2th until the 7th century of our era”
9:40 Discussion

III. Border Regions and Beyond

10:10: Mondher Brahmi (Tunis) & Salvatore Ortsi (München): “Entre Sahara et la Méditerranée: le poste frontalier de Vezeres (Bir Rhezen) sur le Limes Tripolitanus”
10:30 Discussion
10:40 Coffee Break

IV. Cultural Heritage Management

11:00: Heike Möller (Berlin) & Anna-Katharina Rieger (Graz): “Between Africa and Egypt: The Eastern Marmarica and its Relationships”
11:20: Heiko Riemer (Köln): “Perspectives from the Road: Caravan Archaeology along the Darb et-Tawil in Egypt”
11:40 Discussion

11:50: Ulla Kreilinger (Münster): “The reorganisation of the old museum of Cherchell”
12:30 Discussion
12:40 Final discussion